

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 240915Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE 9477

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, JA, CH, TW

SUBJ: JAPAN-CHINA (PRC) AVIATION AGREEMENT

REFS: A. TOKYO 283; B. TOKYO 284; C. TOKYO 354; D. TOKYO 688

SUMMARY: LDP HAS YET TO SOLVE INTERNAL DIFFERENCES ON PROPOSAL ON AIR AGREEMENT WITH PRC. MODIFICATION OF ORIGINAL PROPOSAL BEING DISCUSSED AS AY OF QTE SAVING FACE UNQTE FOR PRO-TAIWAN LDP FACTION. JAL DOES NOT AS YET FEEL MATTER IS CLOSE TO SOLUTION. HOWEVER, IT STILL PROBABLE THAT SOLUTION WILL BE REACHED FOLLOWING NECESSARY KABUKI. END SUMMARY

1. PRESS IN TOKYO JANAURY 24 GAVE CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO LDP ATTEMPTS REACH INTRA-PARTY AGREEMENT ON TERMS OF PROPOSAL FORMULATED BY GOJ TO MODIFY EXISTING AIR-LINK WITH TAIWAN AND REACH ACCORD ON JAPAN-CHINA (PRC) AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH PEKING. REPORTS INDICATE THAT PARTY IS STILL FAR FROM UNITED ON THIS POINT, BUT CONTINUE TO REFLECT LDP LEADERSHIP OPINION THAT COMMON GROUND STILL POSSIBLE.

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2. ONJANUARY 23 TOKUYASU FUKUDA, CHAIRMAN ON LDP FOREIGN POLICY

COMMITTEE, REPORTEDLY DRAFTED A COMPROMISE PLAN WHICH HE HOPES WILL QUOTE SAVE FACE END QUOTE FOR PRO-TAIWAN FORCES IN LDP. MAJOR THRUST OF COMPROMISE PLAN WOULD BE TO MODIFY SECTIONS 3 AND 6 OF PLAN REPORTED PARA 1 REF D. RE POINT 3 REFERENCE IN OFFICIAL PLAN TO GOJ MAKING POSITION CLEAR ON NAME OF CHINA AIRLINES AND USE OF ROC FLAG AND DESIGNATION OF CAL AS CAL (TAIWAN) WOULD BE DROPPED. INSTEAD, LDP LEADERS WOULD HOPE TO REACH VERBAL UNDERSTANDING WITHIN PARTY THAT SUCH STEPS MIGHT BE NECESSARY. RE POINT 6 ENTIRE POINT WOULD BE REWRITTEN TO STATE ONLY THAT MATTERS CONCERNING OPERATION, BUSINESS OFFICES AND SERVICING OF CAL WOULD BE DECIDED WHEN NON-GOVERNMENTAL AIR AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH TAIWAN.

3. IN RELATED MOVES THE PRO-TAIWAN JAPAN-REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LDP HAS BEGUN COLLECTING SIGNATURES OF DIETMEN OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENT'S PLAN AND SEIRANKAI HAS AGAIN VOICED ITS OPPOSITION. PRESS IS ALSO REPORTING THAT IMPORTANT LDP FUKUDA FACTION HAS DECIDED NOT TO TAKE UNIFIED STAND ON THIS ISSUE, BUT TO LET INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS DECIDE MATTER FOR THEMSELVES.

4. CONFIRMING ABOVE, ECONCOUNS DISCUSSED PRESENT STATE OF PLAY WITH TERUO SAKAMOTO, STAFF VICE PRESIDENT FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, JAL.

SAKAMOTO SAID THAT LDP HAD MADE LITTLE HEADWAY IN RESOLVING DIFFERENCES ON THIS MATTER. HE EXPRESSED OWN VIEW THAT MOST DIFFICULT MATTERS GOJ WILL HAVE TO SOLVE WITH TAIWAN WILL BE, IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, ROC PERSONNEL FOR CAL SUPPORT FUNCTIONS IN JAPAN AND TRANSFER OF CAL FROM OSAKA TO ANOTHER AIRPORT. HE STATED THAT MOST COUNTRIES WANT OWN CITIZENS TO ACT IN KEY MANAGEMENT ROLES FOR THEIR AIRLINES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND HE THOUGHT ROC WOULD MAINTAIN THIS POSITION. WITH REGARD TO OSAKA HE SAID THAT IT WAS PROFITABLE RUN FOR CAL AND FOR THIS REASON ROC WOULD OPPOSE MOVE TO ANOTHER AIRPORT, IN SAKAMOTO'S VIEW THERE WAS NO OTHER AIRPORT IN JAPAN THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED A FAIR TRADE-OFF FOR OSAKA.

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5. EMBASSY HAS ALSO HEARD REPORTS THAT ANA AND TOA ARE NOT HAPPY OVER CURRENT THINKING WHICH SEE JAP CADET FIRM TAKING ON PROFITABLE TOKYO-TAIWAN RUN. BOTH FIRMS WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO GET A FOOT IN DOOR OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS BY ASSUMING TOKYO-TAIWAN RUN AND WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO MAKING A PROFIT AT SAME TIME.

6. COMMENT: POT CONTINUES TO BOIL ON QUESTION OF HOW TO SOLVE

INTERNAL LDP DIFFICULTIES OVER AIR AGREEMENT PACKAGE. INITIAL
DEADLINE FOR REACHING INTERNAL LDP AGREEMENT SET IN OPTIMISTIC
DAYS FOLLOWING OHIRA'S RETURN FROM PEKING HAS ALREADY PASSED
AND LDP IS GROWING INCREASINGLY EDGY ABOUT IMAGE BEING PRESENTED
TO JAPANESE PUBLIC BY PARTY INABILITY TO SOLVE THIS ISSUE.
MOST COMMENTATORS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT PACKAGE,
PERHAPS IN MODIFIED FORM, WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER NECESSARY DISPLAY
OF SINCERITY BY THOSE IN OPPOSITION.
SHOESMITH

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